

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059042  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 CU-02 IGA-02 L-03 SP-02 INR-07  
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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES  
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS  
NEA/INS:DKUX  
PC/NANEAP: MR.  
-ANDR

-----171947Z 080919 /56  
R 170109Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059042

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SEDU, EAID, MV

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVIAN EDUCATION

REF: (A) COLOMBO 527; (B) STATE 35758

1. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED WITH ACTION THE DIMENSIONS AND MODALITIES OF A POSSIBLE PEACE CORPS (PC) EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE MALDIVES AS RAISED IN REF (A). THIS EXERCISE HAS BEEN LARGELY EXPLORATORY IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT GOM VIEWS AND NO JUDGMENT ABOUT THE MERITS OF A PROGRAM HAS BEEN MADE EITHER BY STATE OR PC.

2. PC DOES HAVE EXPERIENCE IN PLACING VOLUNTEERS IN COUNTRIES WHERE NO U.S. DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PRESENCE IS MAINTAINED. PC IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL PROGRAM IN THE MALDIVES UNDER WHICH SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WOULD BE LOCATED IN MALE. NUMBER COULD RANGE FROM  
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AS FEW AS TWO OR THREE PCVS TO FIVE WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEACE CORPS OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. PCVS WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE ON THEIR OWN ALTHOUGH PC/W WOULD PROBABLY ASSIGN AT LEAST ONE VOLUNTEER WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AS UNOFFICIAL GROUP LEADER AND LIAISON WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IT WOULD ALSO ASSIGN A STAFFER IN THE

FIELD, PROBABLY NEPAL, TO EXERCISE SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR A MALDIVIAN PROGRAM. ALL SUPPORT EXPENSES WOULD BE BORNE BY THE PEACE CORPS ALTHOUGH SOME LOCAL INPUT WOULD BE SOUGHT, HOWEVER, NOMINAL.

3. ASSUMING THAT LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS WOULD MEET GOM REQUIREMENTS THE PEACE CORPS WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS TO RECRUIT, TRAIN AND ASSIGN VOLUNTEERS TO THE MALDIVES. A LONGER LEAD-TIME WOULD BE NECESSARY IF MORE STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS ARE MADE. IN THIS CONNECTION, PC WOULD NEED SOME BASIC INFORMATION FROM THE GOM: HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE WANTED (MINIMUM, MAXIMUM), WHAT QUALIFICATIONS - DEGREE, SUBJECT, EXPERIENCE, COURSE WORK, ETC.; WHAT TEACHING SUBJECTS; WHAT IF ANY RESTRICTIONS - SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS; WHEN THE LOCAL SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS. PC/W WOULD ENVISION ON-THE-SPOT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOM AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS WITH THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO ANY FINAL PROGRAM DECISION.

4. FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S PERSPECTIVE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PC PROGRAM WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE MALDIVES. MORE THAN IN MOST COUNTRIES, A PC PRESENCE IN THE MALDIVES, HOWEVER MINUTE, MIGHT HAVE AN OFFICIAL COLORATION AND MIGHT WELL BE PERCEIVED BY OTHERS AS IMPLYING STEPPED-UP U.S. INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES IN THE MALDIVES. OFFICIAL CONTACTS INEVITABLY WOULD INCREASE AND COULD CREATE ERRONEOUS EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE ROLE THE U.S. WISHES TO PLAY. IN ADDITION, ADMINISTRATIVE BACK-UP AND PROTECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE EMBASSY'S PART MUST

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ALSO BE RECKONED. IN SHORT, THERE IS A DEFINITE POLITICAL IMPACT AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY INHERENT IN INITIATING A NEW PC PROGRAM WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED ALONG WITH THE DEVELOPMENT ROLE OR OTHER FACTORS DEFINING A PC CONTRIBUTION.

5. AT THIS POINT THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ARE NEEDED AS A PRELUDE TO FURTHER INTER-AGENCY CONSIDERATION. YOUR RECOMMENDATION SHOULD INCLUDE A JUDGMENT ABOUT WHETHER A PC PRESENCE IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. INTERESTS IN THE MALDIVES. WE ALSO NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GOM INTERESTS. IF A SECOND MEETING WITH GOM EDUCATION MINISTER SATTAR (REF A) PRODUCED NEW INFORMATION ON PRIVATE VOLAG ASSISTANCE (REF B) RELEVANT TO U.S. TEACHER ASSISTANCE PLEASE ADVISE. IN SHORT, WE NEED MORE PRECISE PICTURE OF THE SHAPE A PCV PROGRAM MIGHT TAKE AND YOUR ASSESSMENT WHETHER OUR INTERESTS WOULD BE FURTHERED BY RESPONDING POSITIVELY.

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## Message Attributes

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